

they have been trailed in the dust. Since we have brushed away the dust of tradition and with great joy and enthusiasm have exalted the gospel alone banner. With increased zeal we ought to rally around it and *press* the battle until the Christian world will be compelled to recognize it. "There is one lawgiver who is able to save and destroy." The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. "The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." Tho we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Jas. 4:12; Ps. 19:7; Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:8; I Tim. 3:16; Rev. 22:18, 19.

2. The gospel ordinances.

(1) Baptism (a) Its importance has been neglected. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." "Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." "Repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins." "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." He commanded them to be baptized. "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins. "Baptism doth now save us * * * by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Acts 10:48; 22:16; I Peter 3:21; Gal. 3:27. These scriptures show the great value of baptism. (b) Believers only are to be baptized. The gospel does not teach, he that is baptized and then believes shall be saved; or be baptized and then repent; or baptize all nations before teaching them. Everywhere faith and repentance precedes baptism. (c) The gospel ordinance of Trine Immersion has been excluded and man's baptisms substituted. Pouring 250 A. D., single immersion 400 A. D., and backward action 1512 A. D. We should condemn all these innovations and help to reestablish the gospel ordinance. Having both Bible and history on our side we ought to agitate the subject.

(2) The proper time of holding the communion has been lost. (a) The example of Christ teaches that it should be observed at

night. (b) The name Lord's Supper connected with it proves it to be an evening institution. (c) Paul commanded it to be taken at night. Paul received of the Lord and delivered that in the night we should partake of it. I Cor. 11:2, 23.

(3) Footwashing. This is one of the plainest commands, the most beautiful in design, and almost universally ignored.

(4) The Lord's Supper, established by Christ perpetuated by the Apostles and the early church for more than two centuries has been neglected.

3. Nonresistance.

(1) The Gospel forbids the use of all carnal weapons. Every man who shot Spaniards or Chinese, or desired to do so in his heart was a murderer. "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. If my kingdom was of this world then would my servants fight;" "but now is my kingdom not from hence." Matt. 26:52; John 18:36. We are sent as lambs among wolves, and commanded to be as harmless as doves. God is the God of nations; he uses the least wicked to conquer the more wicked, but the church lives in the lamb like age of the world, hence cannot fight.

(2) The *spirit* of nonresistance. This most important truth would end all individual and church quarrels if obeyed. To love our enemies, do good to those who greatly wrong us, and to turn the other cheek when smitten, are at best but vague theories. May God give us grace and wisdom to practice this neglected truth.

4. Nonswearing. "Above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." James 5:12. See also Matt. 5:34, 37.

(1) This gospel truth closes the door against all oath bound secret societies.

(2) It forbids the taking of all civil oaths. The Gospel admits affirmation but forbids swearing.

(3) It excludes all profane swearing. Whenever a church member uses profane language keep a close watch upon your purse, and if you have any chickens, lock your hen house, because he who swears is mean enough to steal.

II. Bible truths also neglected by the Brethren Church. Much that we have placed under the proposition just considered applies to many of our people, and much under this second division does not apply to many of the Brethren Church. We found it difficult to know under which division to place some of these doctrines; but we aimed to present under the first all that the majority of our church accept, and under the second, such as the majority disobey. Many of our people study prophecy, have received the Holy Ghost, and are believers in missions. We rejoice to see an increased interest in these precious truths, yet we have placed them under this division, because the majority of the Brethren Church has not yet accepted them.

1. The Holy Ghost. This neglected truth is designated by many appellations: The Holy Ghost, the gift of the Holy Ghost, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the more abundant life, the more excellent way, the indwelling Christ, etc. This proposition should be properly understood and constantly emphasized. It ought to be plain to us, because we have two ordinances which fix the time of salvation and the reception of the Holy Ghost: namely, Baptism and the laying on of hands. Baptism belongs to salvation and should be performed immediately after repentance, and the laying on of hands immediately after baptism for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Acts 8:15-17; 19:5, 6. The laying on of hands after baptism, out of the water, fixes the time for receiving the Holy Ghost.

2. Applicants should be baptized immediately after repentance. Examples in the New Testament prove this position. If baptistries were placed in all of our churches, it would prevent putting off baptism from winter until spring.

3. We should insist upon deeper conviction and more thorough repentance. We ought to look more for fruits of repentance in the ministry and the laity. Every member should surrender all to Christ in the choice of a pastor or an evangelist, the primary consideration should be sound conversion. Don't choose him because he sings well, sheds crocodile tears, or is eloquent. Our church has been cursed by accepting preachers who live in sin. If a preacher or lay-member does not pay his grocer bills or ask to be forgiven if he cannot, mark him down as a rogue and don't make excuses for him. It would do much towards getting soundly converted preachers, if every church, before hiring a pastor, would write to all of his former congregations to find out if he owes any bills, has more than one wife, or has been flirting with any person's wife or daughter. This would have saved us much trouble in the past, and would do us good in the future.

4. Prophecy.

(1) Fulfilled prophecy. The study of this would prove the necessity of the literal interpretation of the Bible. One interpretation hardly exhausts the meaning of any scripture, yet the literal meaning must always be taken when possible. To deny the literal interpretation is infidelity. (a) Babylon and other cities. More than twenty-five prophecies have been minutely fulfilled respecting Babylon. Prophecies concerning Ninevah, Jerusalem, and other cities have been as truly fulfilled. If the prophecies concerning any one of these cities had been applied to any other one, they would have failed.

(2) Prophecies being now fulfilled. Important prophecies relating to Rome, Egypt, and turkey are *now* being fulfilled. Increase of knowledge, present improvements, extensive travel, by the steam cars, the time of peace and safety while preparing for the greatest war of the ages, pleasure-seeking,